

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>

To:

Date: 2/4/2016 3:24:04 PM

Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, February 4, 2016

---

**SC Front Pages – Thursday, February 4, 2016**

# The Post and Courier

FOUNDED 1803 • WINNER OF THE 2015 PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Thursday, February 4, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## Police arrest suspect in backpage-linked attacks

Summerville investigators say at least 2 women sexually assaulted, stabbed; few details released

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE  
celmore@postandcourier.com

At least two women have reported being sexually assaulted and stabbed by a suspect they met on backpage.com, and Summerville police are investigating whether more women were attacked. Investigators have arrested a sus-

pect in the two cases, but the person's identity has not been publicly released to avoid "jeopardizing the active and ongoing investigations," Capt. Jon Rogers said. "During the course of the investigation, we have identified several victims throughout the area that were victimized over the last 18 months," Rogers said.

It's too early in the investigation to determine whether all of the women were assaulted by the same person, he said. Police ask that women contact investigators if they, too, were assaulted under similar circumstances. On any given day, backpage.com carries 200 or more advertisements for sexual services in the Charleston

region — as many as major cities such as Seattle or Atlanta, a Post and Courier report found. The classified site has grown into a hotbed for prostitution and sex trafficking because it allows sex traders to reach a wide audience while remaining anonymous. Vulnerable children and young adults are at times forced to sell their

bodies on the site while being deprived of food and sleep and sometimes beaten until they meet a quota of men to service. Details surrounding the alleged Summerville assaults were few Wednesday as police withheld the suspect's identity and photo.

Please see **ATTACKS**, Page A6

## 'Grit' pays off as unique school becomes a model

Meeting Street's successful formula at Brentwood may be duplicated at Burns



Meeting Street Elementary @ Brentwood first-grade teacher Rosaruth Parton questions student Brianna Davis about what she just read in a book about storms.

BY PAUL BOWERS  
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Teachers preach the gospel of grit to their students at Meeting Street Elementary @ Brentwood, a unique public school under private management in an impoverished section of North Charleston. What's grit?

"That means you're never giving up," said 7-year-old Kayla Jackson, who recently transferred to the school. "You just work hard."

Administrators are quick to give students praise for strong academic performance, but part of their success may also be ascribed to an infusion of private money and a blue-sky approach to innovation

**pc Poll**  
Do you think Meeting Street Schools taking control of Burns Elementary is a good idea? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](#) to vote.

— facts of Brentwood that could represent a new model of public education for low-income and mi-

nority students. Next week, the Charleston County School Board will consider replicating the early success at Brentwood with another private-public partnership at nearby Burns Elementary, a perennially struggling school that serves a similar population.

Please see **SCHOOL**, Page A6

## Activists seek plastic bag ban for Charleston

Lucas bill in S.C. House would block local bans

BY BO PETERSEN  
bpeter@postandcourier.com

A handful of community activists are quietly pushing to ban the use of plastic bags in Charleston, as the city of Palms did last year. Meanwhile, a high-profile state legislator has co-sponsored a bill to deny local bans.

The bill, now in the House Judiciary Committee, would give only the General Assembly the authority to regulate the use of "a bag, cup, package, container, bottle, or other packaging" used to carry purchases. It's co-sponsored by Speaker of the House Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, and sponsored by Rep. Eric Bedingfield, R-Belton.

Lucas represents a district that includes the Sonoco headquarters, one of the largest manufacturers of packaging in the world, among a number of packaging-affiliated companies that operate in or near the two representatives' districts.

Please see **BAG**, Page A6

**pc Poll**  
Should the state be able to deny local governments from having the power to enact bans? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](#) to vote.

## Zika spread through sex a new threat

Experts seek answers in wake of Dallas case

BY MIKE STOBBER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A sexually transmitted case of Zika in Texas has scientists scrambling to understand how much of a risk infection through sex is for the usually mosquito-spread illness. Experts still stress that mosquitoes are the main culprit in the Zika epidemic menacing Latin America and looming over the United States.

"Mosquitoes would be the great river of transmission, while sexual transmission is going to be akin to a mountain stream," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University.

Please see **ZIKA**, Page A7

## Bill Clinton touts wife as a 'change-maker' for workers, women at S.C. campaign rally

BY MAYA T. PRABHU  
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — An enthusiastic crowd braved rain and tornado warnings Wednesday evening to hear former President Bill Clinton tell them why his wife Hillary is their best choice for president.

During a rally at Allen University, Bill Clinton acknowledged he probably was preaching to the choir of more than 800 people who filled the gymnasium at the historically black school. "As I have grown older — and

**Palmetto Politics**  
[palmettopolitics.com](#)

hopefully a little wiser — I try to spend a little more time explaining things to people and a little less time trying to convert the already converted," he said.

Clinton walked the attendees through his wife's — and the Demo-

cratic frontrunner's — resume, beginning with her work with the Children's Defense Fund in South Carolina up until her time as Secretary of State for President Barack Obama.

"He made a strong case for her credentials," said Jennifer Barnes of Jenkinsville. She and her wife Julie Brendell said they have been strong supporters of Hillary Clinton since she ran for president in 2008.

"He explained some things that we didn't even know," Barnes said of Bill Clinton. Please see **CLINTON**, Page A7



Former President Bill Clinton on Wednesday touted the resume of his wife, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, to a crowd at Allen University in Columbia.

### Inside

**LOCAL**  
Police investigate Tent City stabbing that sent two to hospital. **A4**

**STATE**  
S.C. legislators elect Judge John Few to Supreme Court. **A5**



**CHARLESTON SCENE**  
Local musicians establish Groundhog Day tradition with concert. **E16-18**

**BUSINESS**  
North Charleston office project could yield more than 500 jobs. **B1**

Cosmetics retailer Sephora coming to King Street. **B1**



Showers... High 57, Low 38. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge... 89    Cetrans... 88/84    Movies... 112  
Business... 81    Dear Abby... 87    Obituaries... 84  
Classifieds... 01    Editors... 110    Sports... C1  
Games... 82-9    Local... A2    Television... 87

**Charleston Deals Today**

**AftonBrook Massage**  
\$45 for 1 hour Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage; \$75 for 90 Minute Swedish or Deep Tissue Massage. **See A2**





# NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

## HOW AREA SCHOOLS DID, WHERE LOCAL PLAYERS WENT: SPORTS



# The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**USA TODAY** MEET THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE CAMPAIGN MONEY TO TRUMP **PAGE 1B**

## New West End QwikTrip delayed

ERIC CONNOR  
ECONNOR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Plans for a new QT in the West End are moving slowly as the company takes another look at its design and shares its intentions with the community — which has expressed mixed feelings about the project at a visible gateway into downtown.

The new QwikTrip convenience store and gas station would be built just off the corner of Academy and Markley streets and would model other stores opening in the Upstate, particularly the one on Rutherford Street near the Viola Street neighborhood.

The \$11 billion, Oklahoma-based company is seeking city approval to rezone some of the 2.5 acres for the new store and is asking the city to approve a variance to open for 24 hours.

The variance issue is scheduled to go before the city's Board of Zoning Appeals on Feb. 11.

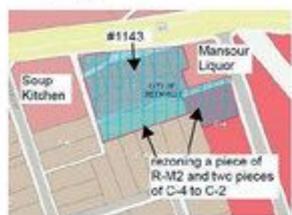
In a recent community meeting in the West End, the debate over how the neighborhood that has become a hotbed for luxury development will grow centered on the QT.

A QT representative said the company was creating detailed plans to make the store attractive and to shield its impact from nearby homes.

The store would offer food service to an area with few options, QT real estate manager Mike Snyder said.

"There's a severe need for services

See QT, Page 5A



Plans for a QT store in the West End would require special approval by the city.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF  
ABOVE: TD Bank CEO and President Mike Pedersen, right, walks with South Carolina Market President David Lominack and Greenville Contact Center Director Simon Hong at the TD Bank corporate office campus in Greenville on Tuesday. RIGHT: Pedersen talks about involvement in the Greenville community at the corporate office.



## TD BANK MORE JOBS SET TO COME

Company growing in Greenville

RUDOLPH BELL  
DELL@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

TD Bank is glad it arrived in Greenville by acquisition a little more than five years ago and plans to continue boosting its local footprint by adding 300 jobs over the next year, its chief executive told *The Greenville News* in an exclusive interview.

The additional jobs will bring the bank very close to its previously announced commitment to have 1,400 jobs at its regional service center along Interstate 85 in Greenville.

The bank already employs about 1,000 people at the service center — which includes a 500-seat call center — and about 200 others at local branches and a regional headquarters downtown.

Mike Pedersen, TD Bank's president and chief executive officer, was in Greenville to recognize employees and meet with local clients and managers. He said during a sit-down with *The News* that TD Bank is pleased with its purchase of Greenville-based The South Financial Group and its subsidiary, Carolina First Bank, in fall 2010.

The bank had no presence in Greenville before the deal. The main goal of the acquisition at the time, Pedersen recalled, was to create a larger

See TD BANK, Page 5A

## Greenville's Few elected to state Supreme Court

TIM SMITH  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — For John Few of Greenville, the chief judge of the state Court of Appeals, the third time proved to be the charm.

Lawmakers elected Few to the South Carolina Supreme Court Wednesday after a tight race with a fellow appellate

judge and the chief judge of the state's administrative law court.

"I'm excited, I don't know what else to say," a beaming Few said afterward.

A former circuit judge who had run for a seat on the high court twice before, Few sat in the House balcony Wednesday as the drama played out.

First, Ralph King "Tripp" Anderson, chief judge of the administrative law

court, whose candidacy promised multiple ballots by lawmakers, dropped out of the race within an hour of the voting.

"I thought, in an exercise of my wisdom, that was the best option," said Anderson afterward, adding he would run again next year.

That left the race to Few and fellow Court of Appeals Judge Bruce Williams in an election by a joint assembly of law-

makers. The Senate voted first, by roll call, splitting evenly between the two judges, 22 for each.

Then came the roll of the House. Members called out their choices in the chamber as their names were read. There appeared no discernible pattern.

See FEW, Page 5A

### INSIDE

Abby.....4D City People.....1D Lotteries.....2A Television.....4D  
Area news.....3A Classifieds.....4C Obituaries.....6A U.S./World.....1B

High 59

www.greenvilleonline.com  
Circulation hotline  
800-736-7136

Greenville News-Piedmont Co.  
A Gannett Newspaper  
139th year No. 350 • 30



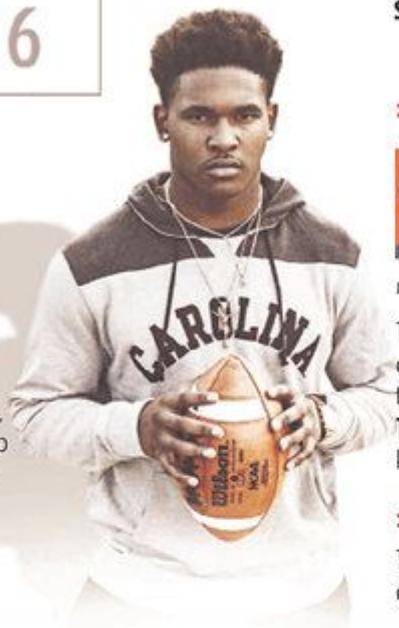


SIGNING DAY

2016

## &gt;&gt;&gt; USC

Coach Will Muschamp's first class includes "playmakers" such as RB **Rico Dowdle**, as well as help at WR and on the D-line.



## SIGNING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

SIX PAGES OF COVERAGE, 1B-6B &lt;&lt;&lt;

## &gt;&gt;&gt; CLEMSON



Mullen

Feaster

The Tigers missed out on Rashan Gary, but hit the jackpot with CB **Trayvon Mullen** and RB **Tavien Feaster**.

## &gt;&gt;&gt; MIDLANDS



Bailey

Collins

Chapin's **Logan Bailey** and LR's **Larry Collins** make their choices, but Dutch Fork's Stephen Davis Jr. will wait.



ONLINE

**Videos: Muschamp's** assessment of class, plus reaction from key members of the USC and Clemson classes.

GOGAMECOCKS.COM  
and THESTATE.COM

## &gt;&gt;&gt; NATIONAL

The final recruiting rankings, plus a breakdown of how the other SEC and ACC teams fared.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 125TH, No. 352  
STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COMFACEBOOK.COM/THESTATENEWS  
TWITTER.COM/@THESTATETODAY: CLOUDY, CHANCE OF RAIN HI 55 LO 36  
YESTERDAY: HI 75 LO 62 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 1.45"  
FORECAST 12C

## The State



Special to The State

David Kerr (right) and Philip Hunter when they were headed to Iraq.

## Lexington man and Army buddy headed to Super Bowl

BY JOSH KENDALL  
jkendall@thestate.com

It's finally beginning to sink in for David Kerr and Philip Hunter that they are headed to California for Super Bowl 50. Both South Carolina men have had a hard time digesting the reality of the situation since Kerr won the trip through USAA's Salute to Service program.

"It's just one of those things you never believe," Kerr said. "It's surreal."

Kerr entered the contest on a whim earlier this year when he saw the entry form pop up on his computer as he

count with USAA, which provides banking and insurance services for current and former military members, and then he forgot that he entered.

"I found out I'd won about a month ago," said Kerr, a 45-year-old Lexington man who works for Lexington County. "My wife was checking our email account, and I saw 'Salute To Service,' and I said, 'Stop there, go back and click on that.' I couldn't believe it. I sat and read it five times."

Hunter, who had no idea Kerr had even entered on his behalf, had the same reaction.

## THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

## One Clinton cheers another at SC rally



TIM GOMINICK/COMINSOCK@thestate.com

Former president Bill Clinton at Allen University in Columbia on Wednesday.

## Former president champions his wife's White House bid

## The Democratic race in SC

Hillary Clinton has an almost 2-to-1 lead in South Carolina's Democratic presidential primary, according to average of polls compiled by Real Clear Politics

CLINTON: 62%

BY TIM FLACH  
tflach@thestate.com

Former president Bill Clinton championed his wife Hillary, the embattled front-runner for the Democratic nomination for president, Wednesday as a "change-maker" who can get things done.

That there's some of the

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: Video, more photos from Bill Clinton's Allen University rally

sought to firm up support for Hillary Clinton during a rally at Columbia's Allen University before South Carolina's Feb. 27 Democratic presidential primary.

ary Clinton as someone who "made things happen" as a former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state, adding she is in touch with the concerns of everyday Americans, and a skilled advocate for economic and social change benefiting families.

She also understands



# NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



More than a dozen high school athletes from Beaufort and Jasper counties make their college choices official **SPORTS 1B**



## The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, February 4, 2016

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 75 cents

# FIRST US MOSQUE VISIT FOR OBAMA

## Zoning application withdrawn in opposition

The application was withdrawn by Old Fort Pub owner after nearly two hours of public comment and discussion by the Planning Commission.

By **ASHLEY FAHEY**  
afahey@islandpacket.com  
843-706-8137

An application to approve zoning for higher-density residential development on a Hilton Head Island property was withdrawn after nearly two hours of public comment at a town meeting.

Several Hilton Head Plantation residents spoke out against the proposal during Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting. The application proposed increasing residential density from 8 units per acre to 20 units per acre — allowing 55 units total instead of 22 units — at the Old Fort Pub property on Skull Creek Drive.

Although town staff recommended Planning Commission approval, Old Fort Pub owner and applicant Bonnie Lowrey ultimately requested to withdraw the application, a motion that received unanimous support from the commission — and applause from many packed into the council chamber.

Several commissioners said they would potentially approve a higher residential density than currently permitted, but added they would likely not approve 20 residential units per acre with no modification to the property's allowable commercial density of 20,000 square feet.

"I'm not opposed at looking at increasing the (residential) density a little bit to make it more economically viable, but going to 20 (units per acre), plus commercial density... I don't see it," said Planning Commissioner member Bryan Hughes. "If you remove the commercial density, I could see that being different, but I don't see it fitting in at



The Associated Press

President Barack Obama stops to greet children from Al-Rahmah school and other guests during his visit to the Islamic Society of Baltimore on Wednesday.

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
The Associated Press

CATONSVILLE, Md. — President Barack Obama sought Wednesday to correct what he called a "hugely distorted impression" of Muslim-Americans as he made his first visit to a U.S. mosque. He said those who demonize all Muslims for the acts of a few are playing into extremists

**"We've seen children bullied; we've seen mosques vandalized. That's not who we are."**  
President Barack Obama

that have ricocheted in the presi-

Baltimore that he'd heard from young Muslims worried they'll be rounded up and kicked out of the country. He said Muslims, too, are concerned about the threat of terrorism but are too often blamed as a group "for the violent acts of the very few."

"We've seen children bullied; we've seen mosques vandalized," Obama said, warning that

national's fabric. "That's not who we are."

For Muslim advocates, Obama's visit was a long-awaited gesture to a community that has warned of escalating vitriol against them that has accompanied the public's concern about the Islamic State and other extremist groups. Although Obama has visited mosques, he has not visited





## RECYCLING PROGRAM GOES GLASS-FREE

UPSTATE, C1



## SUPER BOWL A BIG STAGE FOR ANY BAND

ESCAPE, D1

# Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, February 4, 2016



GoUpstate.com

75¢



GoUpstate



@GoUpstate

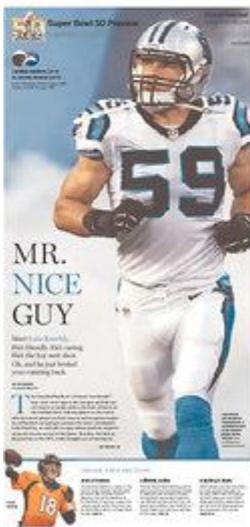
TODAY FRI SAT



56°/32° 51°/26° 51°/33°

Complete forecast, B8

### COMING FRIDAY



A special preview section as the Carolina Panthers get ready to take on the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50.

### UPSTATE

#### Radio comeback

A popular local sports radio station knocked off the air two years ago by a fallen tree is expected to make a comeback soon. C1

#### New justice

The chief judge of the South Carolina Court of Appeals, John Few, is the newest justice on the state Supreme Court after being elected by legislators to fill the vacancy left by December's retirement of Chief Justice Jean Toal. C1

### BUSINESS



CAMPAIGN 2016 GOP

## Trump, Cruz: Bromance to brawl

Republican hopefuls trade shots as they gear up for primary

By Kathleen Hennessey and Steve Peoples  
The Associated Press

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. — Donald Trump and Ted Cruz cast aside any veneer of kindness on Wednesday to trade insults and accusations in a

show of hardball politics that demonstrated the stakes for both men in the New Hampshire primary six days away.

The billionaire mogul charged the Texas senator with "fraud" and called for a do-over of the Iowa caucuses. That's where Cruz's unexpected victory exposed weaknesses in Trump's unorthodox, personality-driven bid for the White House.

Cruz shot back with his fiercest attack yet on the man who

has dominated opinion polls in New Hampshire, suggesting the reality star doesn't like the reality of losing. He's having a "Trumper-tantrum," Cruz told reporters. "He's losing it."

The back-and-forth between two candidates who once made of a show of their rapport underscored the shifting dynamic in a Republican race rattled by the Iowa results.

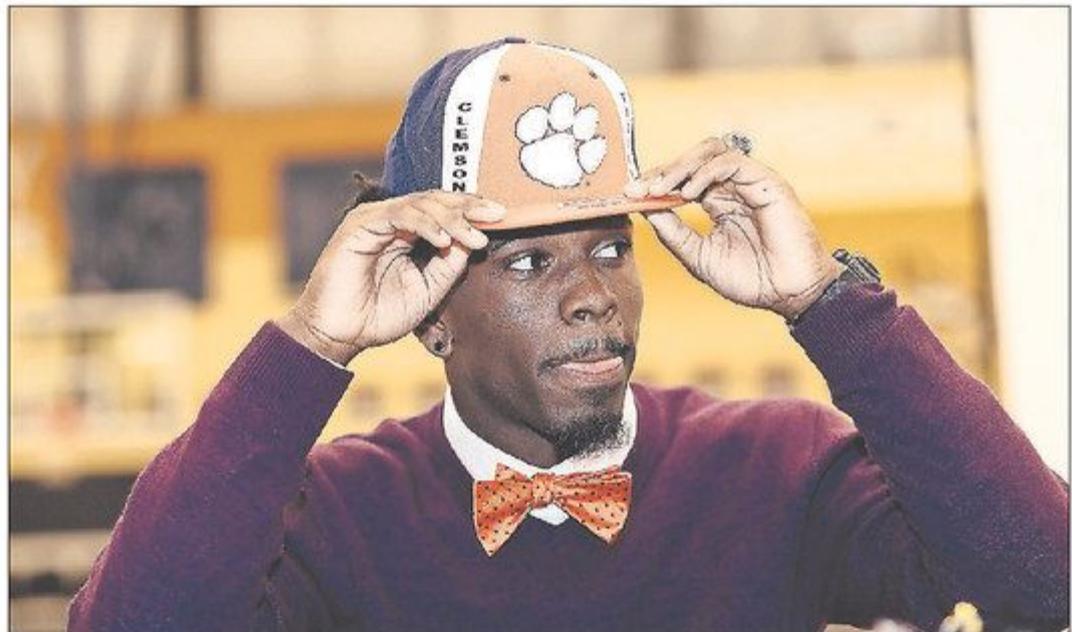
Cruz's campaign staff popped champagne on the flight to New

Hampshire early Tuesday, proud of stealthily out-organizing the political novice. Trump appeared to take the loss graciously Monday night, but by Wednesday morning he had turned.

"Ted Cruz didn't win Iowa, he stole it," Trump tweeted, and his campaign accused Cruz of dirty tricks in telling Ben Carson's supporters their

SEE GOP, A5

## NATIONAL SIGNING DAY



Spartanburg High School standout Tavien Feaster adjusts his Clemson cap after officially becoming a Tiger on National Signing Day. Feaster is among numerous area prep stars who are going on to play college football. Complete coverage begins on page B1. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

STUCK TRUCKS



RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

## Proposal to track refugees criticized



GREAT ROCK FROM THE 80'S RETURNS TO THE PAC WITH

# STARSHIP

FEATURING MICKEY THOMAS

TICKETS  
\$47 / \$57  
FMUPAC.ORG

7:30PM  
FEBRUARY 11

# Morning News

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2016

TODAY'S  
WEATHER

Cooler with periods of rain.  
High 60, low 35.  
DETAILS 2A

www.sctnow.com

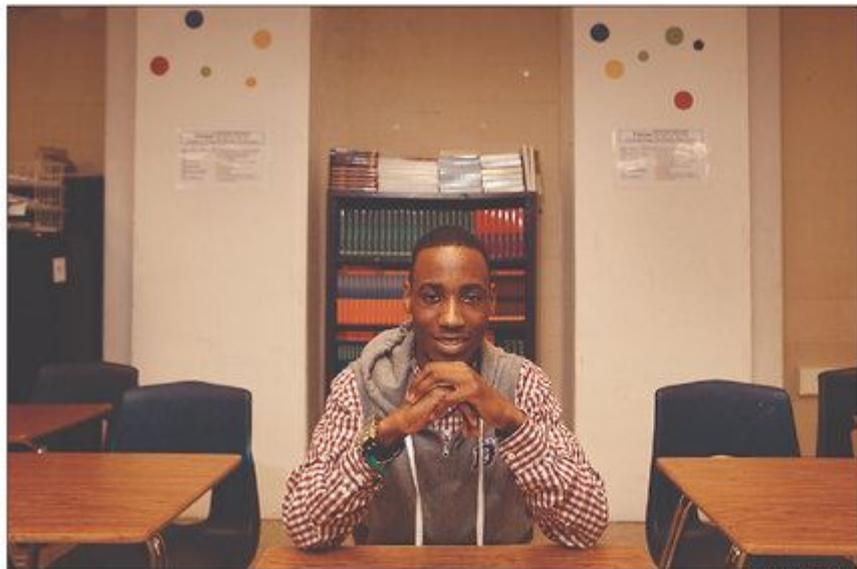
The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## FACES OF FEBRUARY

A series honoring young African-Americans in the Pee Dee

# David Lucas



David Lucas, 18, poses in a classroom at Darlington High School. Lucas recently wrote a motivational book about challenges he faced in school.

## Student meets tests of life

BY MEGAN MAY  
Morning News  
mmay@florencenews.com

### DARLINGTON

David Lucas knows what it's like to have to prove yourself. The junior at Darlington High School was put in special education in elementary school because of his difficulties with writing, reading and math. By the time David reached high school he was in what he calls "mainstream classes" and scoring higher than average on his state exams.

David has used his challenges in school as inspiration for his first book, and the driving force to become a motivational speaker for young adults.

In elementary school David was put into a special needs program to allow him to focus in a smaller class setting and work at his own pace. But he felt isolated.

*"I just always believed that I would eventually begin to see that light at the end of the tunnel. Even when I knew things around me made it seem impossible."*

David Lucas  
18-year-old student and writer

"I began to feel alone," David said. "People used to pick on me and say that I was slow, but really it was my fault because I didn't take the time out to study. I didn't take the time out to actually invest in myself."

Luckily for David, one of his teachers did invest in him and pushed him to test out of special education. In middle school he began taking mainstream classes, one at a time. By the time he was in ninth grade he had tested out of special education.

David explains some of those hardships in his new book, "It's Dark ... But I Can Still See The Light,"

which he self-published.

"I just always believed that I would eventually begin to see that light at the end of the tunnel," said David. "Even when I knew things around me made it seem impossible."

With the help of Darlington High School teacher Shemekki Ketter, David has begun working on other motivational projects, such as a short film adaptation of his first book, a children's book about bullying and a second book for young adults. He hopes to continue to work as a motivational speaker and inspire his peers to reach their full potential.

# Magnet school included in project

BY MELISSA ROLLINS  
Morning News  
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — If all goes as planned, Florence will be home to a renovated McClenaghan High School, Poynor Adult Education Center and R.N. Beck Child Development Center in five years.

During a press conference Wednesday afternoon, administration officials of Florence School District One, the city of Florence and Francis Marion University announced a partnership to renovate the three buildings and start a magnet high school for the arts and health sciences. All of the plans would be subject to approval from the governing boards of each entity. A preliminary estimate for the project is \$12 million.

Florence One owns Poynor and McClenaghan but currently only Poynor is in use. Money from the city's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District would allow the district to

See **MAGNET**, Page 3A

# TIF District extension added to \$12 million schools project

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Financing for proposed improvements to the McClenaghan building, the Poynor building and the Beck Early Childhood Center could be paid by the city of Florence through a \$12 million tax increment financing district borrowing.

If approved, the city will provide financing for capital construction through TIF borrowing, and Florence School District 1 will agree to extend the TIF district for an additional 20 years.

Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela said the

See **EXTEND**, Page 3A

# Florence County chief deputy clerk announces candidacy for clerk's job

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

13 years, announced in January that she will retire at the end of this term.

Deeds division.

"I went into government because I was basically looking for

sions Court and eventually rose to deputy clerk II supervisor for criminal court.

the next step."

The Clerk of Court's Office is responsible for maintaining a



## National Signing Day

Who went where  
from the Lakelands?

Full coverage in Sports



# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 97, NO. 323

 indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## Short-staffed, underfunded

### Stumbo, Nelson discuss caseloads in the Eighth Circuit

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ  
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

For each prosecutor in the Eighth Circuit, there are about 560 cases — six times the national average.

But Solicitor David Stumbo, who

serves Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and Newberry counties, said the backlog of cases is being reduced despite having their attorney's spread thin.

Since being elected in 2012, Stumbo has worked to get his office processing more cases every year.

"Our first year, we were just keeping pace," he said. "We ate up a lot of our trial terms with jury trials."

By focusing on trying high-priority cases and getting good results, he said the image of the office became more authoritative, which meant getting bet-

ter and quicker plea bargains.

"The first year set the tone," he said. "You naturally move the docket with good plea deals."

With more than 8,000 cases pending

See CASELOADS, page 4A



DAVID STUMBO

JANNA NELSON

## NATURE'S WRATH



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debris lies on the ground near First Baptist Church of Collinsville in Lauderdale County, Miss., after it was severely damaged during a storm Tuesday. Authorities said a large tornado in rural western Alabama left a trail of damage as powerful storms moved into the state.

## Tornadoes damage the South; snow covers Plains, Upper Midwest

By EMILY WAGSTER  
and JOSH FUNK  
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — A trail of damage was left at an Army post, schools and businesses were closed for a second day, and a damaged women's prison was running partly on backup power Wednesday after two days of storms unleashed tornadoes and flooding in the South and dumped heavy snow in the Midwest.

The most recent apparent

twister knocked down some trees and damaged vehicles and buildings at Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia on Wednesday evening, spokesman Kevin Larson said. He said the extent of the damage was not immediately known, but there were no reports of injuries. Fort Stewart is the largest Army post east of the Mississippi River. Much of its land area is uninhabited forestland.

The National Weather Service had reports of a tornado

See NATURE, page 4A



A man clears snow from his sidewalk Tuesday in Waterloo, Iowa.

### GREENWOOD TIES

## Judge named associate justice on high court

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ  
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

John Cannon Few, who served as chief judge of the state Court of Appeals, has been elected to the state Supreme Court as an associate justice, according to numerous news reports.

In a joint session, legislators elected Few on Wednesday to fill the vacancy left by December's retirement of Chief Justice Jean Toal.

"It's a big moment," Few, of Greenville, said after the vote, adding he felt "relief, excitement. I understand the responsibility that comes with winning the seat."

It's Few's third attempt at a seat on the high court. First elected as a Circuit Court judge in 2000, Few has been chief judge of the Court of Appeals since 2010.

The 52-year-old Greenville resident was elected 92-73 by the state legislature midday Wednesday, beating out fellow appeals court judge Bruce Williams for the post. A third finalist, Ralph King Anderson III, chief judge of the state Administrative Law Court, withdrew his name from consideration Wednesday morning.

Toal, who sat beside Few in the House gallery during the voting, praised Few as highly qualified.

"He will be a wonderful addition to the Supreme Court," she said.

Few was born in Anderson, and raised in Greenwood, graduating from Greenwood High School in 1981, according to his page on the Court of Appeals website. He studied law at the University of South Carolina, where he teaches, and received his doctoral degree in law in 1988.

State Sen. Floyd Nicholson, D-Greenwood, said he's very familiar with Few's family. Former Gov. David Beasley is his uncle, and his moth-



JOHN C. FEW

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304